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Cambodia 120

Department of State TELEGRAM

79

UNCLASSIFIED 020

PAGE 01 PARIS 08511 021809Z

47
ACTION EA 15

INFO EUR 20,GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,
CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 20,SAH 03,IO 15,NSA 02,AID 28,RSR 01,
MM 01,SAL 01,/156 W

P 021451Z JAN 68
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8426
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0075
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 0718

UNCLAS PARIS 8511 SECTION 1 OF 2

SUBJ: SIHANOUKJ'S STATEMENTS ON (I) USG ATTITUDE TOWARD CAMBODIA, (II) PRESENCE OF VC ON CAMBODIAN SOIL, (III) REQUEST FOR FOREIGN HELP IN CASE OF US "INTERVENTION" IN CAMBODIA, (IV) ROLE OF FRANCE.

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSYJ'S TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW SIHANOUK GAVE RADIO EUROPE NO. 1 (FRENCH CONTROLLED COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION) WHICH WAS TAPED PHNOM PENH DEC 31 AND BROADCAST HERE ON JANUARY 1:

BEGIN TRANSLATION:

A. QUESTION: YOUR HIGHNESS, THE UNITED STATES DECLARES THAT IT HAS NO HOSTILE INTENTION TOWARDS CAMBODIA. DO YOU TRUST THEM?

PAGE 2 RUFJC 8511/1 UNCLAS
ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT (OF STATE) CONTINUES TO SAY AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO EXTEND THE VIETNAMESE CONFLICT TO OUR TERRITORY. BUT IT (THE US) IS CONCERNED BY WHAT IT

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 PARIS 08511 021809Z

CALLS "THE USE OF THIS TERRITORY BY THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCESJ'AND IT (THE US) WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THIS MATTER. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AMERICAN PRESS, RAGING AGAINST US FOR (LAST) SEVERAL WEEKS, BLAMES US FOR ALL THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND PREDICTS AS IMMINENT, OPERATIONS SUPPOSEDLY IN "HOT PURSUIT OF VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE ELEMENTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY TAKE REFUGE IN OUR COUNTRY."

SOME NEWSPAPERS, INTERPRETERS OF THE THOUGHTS OF THE PENTAGON CHIEFS, GO EVEN FURTHR AND ADVOCATE THE PERMANENT OCCUPATION OF CERTAIN OF OUR FRONTIER REGIONS, THE BLOCKADING OR QUARANTINING OF OUR ONLY DEEP SEA PORT, SIHANOUKVILLE, WHERE, THEY SAY PROVISIONS FOR THE VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE ENTER.

MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GROUP IN THE US FAVORING MILITARY ESCALATION IS ONLY WAITING FOR THE GREEN LIGHT FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

PAGE 3 RUFJC 8511/1 UNCLAS
JOHNSON, WHO HAS MORE FORESIGHT THAN THE GENERALS, AND WHO HIMSELF BETTER APPRECIATES THE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF A BRUTAL, UNJUSTIFIED AND USELESS AGGRESSION AGAINST A SOVEREIGN, MONARCHIST, NATIONALIST AND NEUTRAL STATE, STILL HESITATES. HE CANNOT IGNORE THAT CAMBODIA HAS FRIENDS EVERYWHERE, FROM THE SOCIALIST CAMP TO (MEMBERS OF) THEFREE WORLD AND (HE KNOWS) THAT A UNANIMOUS AND INDIGNAT PROTEST IN THE WORLD WOULD GREET THE LAUNCHING OF HOSTILITIES ATAINST OUR COUNTRY.

MR JOHNSON ALSO KNOWS THAT CAMBODIA IS FAR FROM FAVORABLE TO COMMUNISM, THAT CAMBODIA STAYS WITHIN ITS BORDERS AND THAT CAMBODIA IS CERTAINLY NOT AN ENEMY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AMERICA. HE KNOWS FINALLY THAT THE KHMER PEOPLE ARE NOT AFRAID AND WILL DEFEND THEMSELVES FORCEFULLY IN CASE OF A FOREIGN ATTACK WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE DISPROPORTION IN MEANS.

IT IS IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON, WHO HAS ALWAYS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE CORRECT IN OUR REGARD, I MUST ADMIT, WILL TAKE THE DECISIONN TO GIVE OR NOT

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PAGE 4 RUFJCX 8511/1 UNCLAS
TO GIVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO THESE GENERALS TO VIOLATE THE NEUTRALITY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THETHOUSAND YEAR OLD KINGDOM OF SIX MILLION SOULS WHICH HAS BEEN UP TO NOW THAT LAST HAVEN OF PEACE IN A TORN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

MAY HEAVEN AND NOT HELL INSPIRE HIM.
B. QUESTION: YOUR HIGHNESS, COULD YOU TELL US IF THE VIET CONG MAQUISARDS SOMETIMES FIND REFUGE IN YOUR COUNTRY AS THE AMERICANS DECLARE?

ANSWER: I WILL RESPOND FRANKLY TO THIS QUESTION... IT HAS HAPPENED SEVERAL TIMES THAT SOME SMALL UNITS OF THE VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE, UNDER PRESSURE FROM AMERICAN FORCES, TAKE REFUGE IN CAMBODIA TO AVOID ANNIHILATION. IN THIS CASE, OUR OFFICERS GO TO MEET THEM... AND ORDER THEM TO RECROSS THE FRONTIER WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS. UP TO NOW THIS INJUCTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN OBEYED. ON OTHER HAND, THERE COULD NOT BE IMPORTANT VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES-- DIVISIONS, GENERAL STAFFS, BASES, HOSPITALS, ETC. -- ON OUR TERRITORY
,
FOR THE GOOD REASON THAT THE ONLY REGIONS WHERE THEY WOULD BE ABLE EVENTUALLY TO HIDE THEMSELVES-- THE AREA OF UNINHABITED FORESTS IN THE NORTHEAST-- DOES NOT OFFER THEM ANY POSSIBILITY TO REPROVISION THEMSELVES.

PAGE 5 RUFJC 8511/1
THE AMERICAN COMMAND STATES THE CONTRARY. ACCORDING TO IT, VIETCONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN THESE REGIONS CONDUCT MOVEMENTSSO SECRET THAT THEY ALLEGEDLY ARE NOT NOTICED BY OUR OWN FORCES. IF SUCH WERE THE CASE, WHICH I DOUBT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT RISK THE LIVES OF OUR TROOPS
(MORE COMING)

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

49

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08511 021642Z

47

ACTION EA 15

INFO EUR 20,GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,

CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 20,SAH 03,IO 15,SAL 01,NSA 02,AID 28,

RSR 01,MM 01,/156 W

R 021451Z JAN 68
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY 8427
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 76
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 719

UNCLAS PARIS 8511 SECTION 2 OF 2

IN A SMALL FIGHT LIMITED TO INFILTRATING VIETNAMESE WHO ARE THERE WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE AND AMERICANS COMING TO DISLODGE THEM. WE WOULD PROTEST AGAINST THE TWO PARTIES.

IF, ON THE CONTRARY, IN THE NAME OF THE RIGHT OF PURSUIT, WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT A RIGHT AS IS KNOWN IN FRANCE, AFTER THE FRANCO-TUNISIAN INCIDENT OF SIDI-SAKIET DURING THE ALGERIAN WAR, THE AMERICAN ARMY OR ITS ALLY WERE TO PENETRATE INTO AREAS INHABITED BY CAMBODIANS OR EVEN BY VIETNAMESE PEACEFULLY LIVING THERE ON OUR SOIL WHO HAVE BEEN THERE FOREVER AND WHOM IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT, THEN WE WOULD RESIST WITH ALL OUR MEANS.

PAGE 2 RUFJC 8511/2 UNCLAS

C. QUESTION: YOUR HIGHNESS, IF THERE WERE AN AMERICAN INTERVENTION, WOULD YOU CALL FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE?

ANSWER: IF IT WERE LARGE SCALE AGGRESSION, WE WILL ASK FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, GREAT FRIENDS OF CAMBODIA -- SOVIET UNION, CHINA,

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FRANCE -- TO INCREASE MATERIAL AID WHICH THEY ARE ALREADY GRANTING US. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WE WOULD ASK THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND I WOULD PERSONALLY APPEAR ON THE ROSTRUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DEFEND MY COUNTRYJ'S CAUSE.

I WOULD ASK EVERYBODY TO TAKE CLEARLY A POSITION, AND TO SAY WHETHER THEY FAVOR THE RESPECT OF LAW OR THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE. IN THE EVENT WHERE MILITARY PRESSURE WOULD BECOME INTOLERABLE, OR OUR ARMY AND OUR POPULAR FORCES COULD NOT CONTAIN THE AGGRESSOR, WE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS FROM CHINA, NORTH KOREA OR EVEN CUBA, BUT THESE VOLUNTEERS WOULD REMAIN UNDER CAMBODIAN COMMAND. WE WOULD NOT CALL ON VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEERS. IF THEY ENTERED IN NUMBERS IN OUR COUNTRY, THESE VIETNAMESE MIGHT WELL NOT WISH TO LEAVE ANYMORE.

THIS WOULD BE OUR GRADUATED RESPONSE. I HOPE THAT WASHINGTON STUDIES IT ATTENTIVELY BEFORE LAUNCHING ITSELF ON AN ADVENTURE WHICH WOULD IN THE END LEAD TO A GENERAL CONFLICT.

D. QUESTION: YOUR HIGHNESS, HAVE YOU INFORMED GENERAL DEGAULLE OF THE SITUATION?

ANSWER: THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, WHO IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST AND MOST FAITHFUL FRIENDS, IS PERFECTLY INFORMED OF OUR TROUBLESOME AND DANGEROUS SITUATION. I KNOW THAT EMINENT FRENCH DIPLOMATS MAKE UNREMITTING, GREAT EFFORTS TO DISSUADE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN FROM EXTENDING THE WAR TO CAMBODIA AND, IN THE NAME OF OUR PEOPLE, I THANK THEM FOR IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEAT.

SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE KHMER ARMY, I AM ALSO RESERVE CAPTAIN IN THE FRENCH ARMY. MANY THINGS LINK ME TO FRANCE, WHO DOES NOT HAVE A BETTER FRIEND THAN CAMBODIA IN ASIA; AND I AM CERTAIN THAT IF OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERGO UNJUST ORDEALS,

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PAGE 03 PARIS 08511 021642Z

THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF FRENCH PEOPLE WOULD SHOW US THEIR SOLIDARITY AND THEIR AFFECTIONATE COMPASSION.

PAGE 4 RUFJC 8511/2 UNCLAS
FOR THE TIME BEING, I DO NOT WISH TO BE EITHER PESSIMIST OR ALARMIST: THE CAMBODIANS AND MYSELF BOTH KEEP OUR SANG-FROID.

END TRANSLATION.

2. FRENCH TEXT POUCHED EA/VN. WALLNER

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